**Heads Or Tails (Pile/Face)**

I start off nearly every class session, at all levels, with this activity. The arrangement indicated below is just a context for understanding this activity. You can easily adapt it to your classroom logistics.

(X = student desk, *all facing towards front of room*;

questions are projected on screen located at the front of the classroom)

X X X X X X

X X X X X X

X X X X X X

X X X X X X

X X X X X X

X X X X X X

For this activity, there is a set of between 8 and 16 questions IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE, projected on a large screen through the LCD projector (you could also have them on an overhead, on the board, or on a piece of paper that all students have).

The questions might be vocabulary driven, thematically driven, or grammar-driven. I create the questions on a daily basis, and these questions reflect my curriculum. Yours will be tailored to fit what is going on in your classroom. The questions always reflect what we are currently working on, or are recycled material for review, or spiraled up material. The questions are predominantly “who/what/when/where/why/how” questions; “yes” and “no” questions are not linguistically demanding enough*. I do not introduce new material* in this activity.

Each student must have someone behind/in front of him/her. If there are an uneven number of students, you, the teacher, need to take a seat to even the numbers so that everyone has a partner. You might have to move students around to fill in empty seats; do this very quickly. They do not need their notebooks or books. I have a paper euro stuck to the front of desk of each row that idicates either heads or tails.

Then I flip a coin, revealing the call to a few students, who then announce the call to the class. If it lands on “Face,” then the face rows will have to move clockwise or counter-clockwise (depending on which I designate) when I yell “circulez!” or “changez de partenaire “bougez!” once the activity begins.

For the activity to begin everyone must have a partner. The activity begins. The 2 students facing each other *alternate* asking a question from the screen, *in random order*, and answering it in a *complete sentence*. When I yell the cue to “circulez/bougez/changez de partenaire” after approximately 1 minute, every person in the face row moves over 1 seat and begins the questioning/answering process again with a new partner. Students generally will rotate through 6 to 10 students during this warm-up activity. *Everyone* is speaking the target language, *everyone* is practicing, *everyone* is participating.

***What other benefits, besides the obvious one of oral practice, might this activity generate?***

**Sample Sets of “Pile ou Face” Questions**

1. What is your name ?
2. How are you today ?
3. What did you have for lunch today ?
4. What are you doing this weekend?
5. Do you have plans for tonight?
6. Do you do your homework after school?
7. What activities do you like to do in the winter?
8. Do you go swimming in the winter?
9. What do you wear when it’s raining?
10. What is your mother’s name?
11. What do they sell at the bakery shop?
12. What do you like to do when you go to the park?
13. What did you eat for dinner last night?
14. When do you go to the library?
15. What do you buy at the grocery store?